though we have not the dangers which you have gone through, we have many of the difficulties which you have met & conquered. The fact that you have conquered them gives additional value to your sympathy with us; & the fact that you do sympathize with us gives our cause a new dignity with the world. Your position thus puts it in your power to help us invaluably.

I shall be greatly obliged if you can will kindly let me know your wishes, at his earliest convenience. With kind regards to him

I remain, dear Sir, Yours sincerely

R. T. Martineau

If, however, you do not like this plan
should rather not give us this
most valuable help, I trust you
will have no objection to giving
us a short written reply to our
address. In that case I should
much like to invite the members
of our Committee to call & have
the pleasure of a private intro-
duction to you one of the evenings
you are here.

I hope you will not think
me exceeding the bounds of hos-
pitality by asking you, in this
barefaced way, to allow us to
turn your visit to account in
a cause we have deeply at heart.

Highfield Road,
Edgbaston.

MARTE HOBILIOR PALLAS

90B

& the newspapers will not report our meetings. Here, the newspapers dare not ignore any utterance of yours. A few words, then. You would gain a respectful hearing from a large proportion of the community which they will not now give to us. I want to know whether you can kindly undertake to help us, fighting against the indifference & moral sloth of the "influential classes", by this means. We should not ask for a long speech; my idea was that we should, for convenience of friends, have some moderate sized room in town for an hour perhaps on the Monday afternoon, & issue invitations by Circular.

the means of frustrating your wish in that respect.

The fact is the Committee of our Association for securing the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts desires to present an Address to you during your stay here, & I want to know in what form it will be most agreeable to you to receive it. I heard you say on Friday how deeply you sympathized with us in our struggle to vindicate morality & justice, & how you would do what you could to help us. Now you can help us more, I believe, than any living man. In London the "conspiracy of silence" is all powerful

emotion of discouragement at the apathy which meets us in our agitation. Such words from you are invaluable to us.

I have something to ask of you about which I shall be obliged by your writing to me as frankly as I am now going to do. In the first place I must say that I beg that your own health & comfort may be throughout your visit here the first considerations. I know the object of your visit to England is rest, & should never forgive myself if I were to be

Highfield Road,
Edgbaston.

July 1st 1877

My dear Sir, I am so glad
to have had the opportunity of
meeting you which Friday's
gathering afforded, so that we
shall not greet each other
as strangers when you arrive.

I want to thank you for
your very sympathetic & en-
couraging words to us on Friday.
I have been saying to Mrs. Baker
in a letter to-day that they
made me feel almost ashamed
of ever having felt a momentary